

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Swords, Scenes & Soliloquies

M A C B E T H

18

Act IV, scene 1: *Witches Warning*

Witches 1 2 and 3, Macbeth & Lennox

MACBETH

How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags! What is't you do?

ALL

A deed without a name.

MACBETH

I conjure you, by that which you profess, **answer me to what I ask you!**

FIRST WITCH

Speak!

SECOND WITCH

Demand!

THIRD WITCH

We'll answer!

FIRST WITCH

Say, if thou'dst rather hear it from our mouths, or from our masters?

MACBETH

Call 'em; let me see 'em.

ALL

Come, high or low; Thyself and office deftly show!

FIRST WITCH

[circling MACBETH] Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! **beware Macduff; Beware the thane of Fife.** Dismiss me. Enough.

MACBETH

But one word more,--

FIRST WITCH

I WILL NOT BE COMMANDED! here's another, more potent than the first.

SECOND WITCH

Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth!

MACBETH

Had I three ears, I'd hear thee.

SECOND WITCH

[circling MACBETH] Be bloody, bold, and resolute; laugh to scorn the power of man, for **none of woman born shall harm Macbeth.**

MACBETH

Then live, Macduff: what need I fear of thee?

THIRD WITCH

[circling MACBETH] Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be **until Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill Shall come against him.**

MACBETH

That will never be who can impress the forest, bid the tree unfix his earth-bound root? Yet my heart throbs to know one thing: tell me, if your art can tell so much: **shall Banquo's issue ever Reign in this kingdom?**

ALL

SEEK TO KNOW NO MORE!

MACBETH

I will be satisfied! deny me this? and an eternal curse fall on you! Let me know!

FIRST WITCH

Show!

SECOND WITCH

Show!

THIRD WITCH

Show!

ALL

Shown his eyes, and grieved his heart; Come like shadows, so depart!

[Exit WITCHES]

MACBETH

Where are they? Gone? Come in, without there!

[Enter Lennox]

LENNOX

What's your grace's will?

MACBETH

Saw you the weird sisters?

LENNOX

No, my lord.

MACBETH

Came they not by you?

LENNOX

No, indeed, my lord.

MACBETH

Infected be the air whereon they ride! And damn'd all those that trust them! I did hear the galloping of horse: who was't came by?

LENNOX

'Tis two or three, my lord, that bring you word **Macduff is fled to England.**

MACBETH

Fled to England!

LENNOX

Ay, my good lord! *[Lennox runs out]*

MACBETH

The castle of Macduff I will surprise; Seize upon Fife;

give to the edge o' the sword his wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls that trace him in his line.

No boasting like a fool; This deed I'll do before this purpose cool.

BUT NO MORE SIGHTS!